

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5476

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Higher Education, February 8, 2007

Title: An act relating to a mentoring program for students in grades eight through twelve.

Brief Description: Creating a mentoring program for students in grades eight through twelve.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Berkey, Schoesler, Kohl-Welles, Delvin, Spanel, Hewitt, McAuliffe and Rasmussen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education: 2/07/07, 2/8/07 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5476 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Shin, Chair; Kilmer, Vice Chair; Delvin, Ranking Minority Member; Berkey, Schoesler and Sheldon.

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: The Washington Campus Compact (WACC) is a statewide coalition of college and university presidents who have united to further the civic purposes of higher education by: creating academic and co-curricular service opportunities for students to develop the skills and habits of citizenship; encouraging the engagement of faculty in community-based scholarship that addresses societal concerns; and fostering the development of collaborative partnerships among campuses, and with communities.

Colleges in Washington and Idaho, under the direction of the WACC, leverage local, state, and national resources to bring Learn and Serve America to each of the 11 congressional districts in the two states. Learn and Serve America provides support to schools, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers, and others in service-learning. The Learn and Serve's Count Me In program improves school success of disadvantaged P-12 youth by growing and replicating existing tutoring, mentoring, and service-learning projects. College service-learning students work with disadvantaged youth to mitigate barriers to school success and improve college access. WACC's Retention Project utilizes service-learning as a strategy to improve the retention of first-generation college students and the academic advancement of disadvantaged high school students. WACC directs the administration of the Retention Project in collaboration with Washington State colleges and universities, high schools, community leaders, and policy

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makers. WACC and its higher education host sites provide training and professional development opportunities to 20 full-time AmeriCorps members. Members recruit and train first-generation college service-learning students to mentor disadvantaged high school students.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Proposed Substitute As Heard In Committee (Higher Education): The WACC at Western Washington University develops a statewide network of partnerships between institutions of higher education and common schools serving 8th to 12th grade students. The partnerships include programs for postsecondary students to mentor common school students. The WACC measures the impact of the program on all of the participants.

Funding must be used for: (1) the mentoring program; (2) training for the partnerships; (3) improving accountability by developing assessment mechanisms to measure impacts of the mentoring program; and (4) disseminating best practices statewide.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY RECOMMENDED SUBSTITUTE AS PASSED COMMITTEE (Higher Education): It is clarified that private institutions of higher education are included in the statewide network of partnerships.

Appropriation: Available.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: College students want to make a difference and encourage younger students to stay in school and go on to higher education. It is estimated that 2,500 student mentors could be recruited. This programs builds upon already existing efforts.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Shin, prime sponsor; Mark Palek, President, Spokane Falls Community College; Michaelann Jundt, University of Washington; Jonathan Meade, student, Seattle University; Jennifer Dorr, Executive Director, Washington Campus Compact.